

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the second complete examination of the instant application. Claim 3 is the single claim remaining in the instant application. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnekov et al., U.S. Pat. 5,578,229. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 3 sets forth a combination of limitations including “[A]n apparatus for laser processing plate-like interconnect carriers laminated on both sides, said apparatus comprising:... an internal beam deflection device for each of said two laser units, said internal deflection device to deflect respective substantially perpendicular laser beams emitted from said laser units on to regions of said carriers to be processed...” (Emphasis added.) Applicants respectfully submit that the patent documents relied upon by the Examiner, either in combination together or standing alone, fail to teach or suggest at least the indicated limitations of independent claim 3.

Barnekov et al. teach a method and apparatus for cutting boards using opposing convergent laser beams. The apparatus includes lasers 16 and 18 and a pair of focusing lenses 22 and 24. The apparatus further includes a moveable support 26 that is capable of moving a workpiece, such as a one-inch thick wood board 32.

The lasers 16 and 18 are capable of producing laser beams 20 and 21, respectively. As is illustrated in each of the figures of the relied upon patent, the laser beams 20 and 21 are

not substantially perpendicular. Instead, the laser beams 20 and 21 are emitted along the same plane. This is clearly illustrated in Figs 3a and 3b of the relied upon patent.

For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that Barnekov et al. fail to teach or suggest at least the indicated recitation of independent claim 3. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Timothy R. Wyckoff (Reg. No. 46,175) at (703) 390-3030 in the Washington D.C. area.

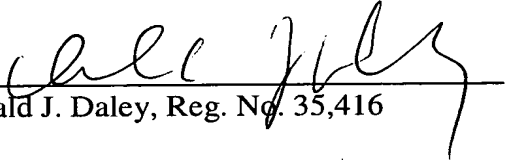
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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